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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 3 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 30 September 1995, addressed to you by Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 30 September 1995 from the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from President Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, pursuant to our letters contained in documents S/1995/767, S/1995/791 and S/1995/795 and in reference to your letter of 22 September 1995, I have the honour to communicate to you the following:

While deeply appreciative of the continuous efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, we are aware of the magnitude of the task of the Special Mission both within the country, to facilitate national rapprochement, and in the international community, to mobilize support for the cause of peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/140 of 20 December 1994 and in subsequent Security Council presidential statements.

I wish to refer to the important provisions of paragraph 4 of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, on the imperative character of the cessation of foreign interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, to assure peace in the country. This objective, yet to be achieved, has been further jeopardized as a result of the recent negative developments.

To effectively achieve this goal, the United Nations is to further strengthen the capabilities of the Special Mission. We believe that your efforts and those of Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, Head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, would benefit from the establishment of a contact group on Afghanistan composed of States, but not the ones immediately involved, as well as of interested organizations.

Such contact groups have been established to support your peace-making efforts in other parts of the world. Their achievements suggest that the creation of such a mechanism in the case of Afghanistan can play a constructive role in the country as well as for the cause of peace and stability in the region.

Afghanistan, as a war-stricken country, experiencing major economic and humanitarian problems, is suffering from a lack of adequate international attention. A contact group on Afghanistan could raise the level of international awareness about the root causes and dimensions of the conflict, and assist the United Nations Special Mission to accelerate and enhance its endeavours, thus creating an atmosphere conducive to the return of complete peace, normalcy and national rapprochement, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. Meanwhile the United Nations has been requested to reopen its offices in the capital city, Kabul, where peace and security withstand.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, therefore, proposes the establishment of a contact group on Afghanistan, composed of States and organizations dedicated

to facilitating the ongoing search for peace as well as the mobilization of the United Nations and international assistance for the reconstruction of the country.

With a mandate to support the good offices of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Mission, the contact group on Afghanistan might include representatives of institutions like the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union, as well as of other States and organizations that you, in consultation with the Islamic State of Afghanistan, deem appropriate for the above-mentioned objectives.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs